

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendment above and the remarks below is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-43 have been canceled in this paper. Claims 50-52 has been amended in this paper. New claims 53-58 have been added in this paper. Therefore, claims 44-58 are pending and are under active consideration, as discussed further below.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Patent Office communicates, in pertinent part, the following election of invention requirement:

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-27, drawn to a composite membrane, classified in class 204, subclass 296.

II. Claims 28-43, drawn to an electrochemical device and a membrane electrode assembly, classified in class 429, subclass 34.

III. Claims 44-52, drawn to a method of preparing a composite membrane, classified in class 521, subclass 27.

In response to the above, Applicants respectfully elect Group III, claims 44-52. In addition, Applicants note that claims 1-43, corresponding to non-elected Groups I and II, have been canceled in this paper. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 53-58 correspond to elected Group III.

In addition to making the above-discussed election of invention requirement, the Patent Office also communicates, in pertinent part, the following election of species requirement in the outstanding Office Action:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: A fuel cell, an electrolyzer, a sensor, a gas concentrator/compressor, a supercapacitor or ultracapacitor and

industrial process unit. The species are independent or distinct because they have different classifications in the art and have different materials such as electrodes and physical make ups which differentiate one device from another.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, a membrane electrode assembly or an electrochemical device is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

In response to the above, Applicants respectfully elect the species of electrolyzer. Claims 44-58 are readable on the elected species.

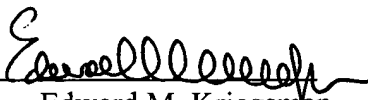
In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is

required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

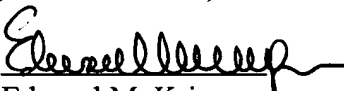
Respectfully submitted,

Kriegsman & Kriegsman

By: 
Edward M. Kriegsman
Reg. No. 33,529
30 Turnpike Road, Suite 9
Southborough, MA 01772
(508) 481-3500

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 21, 2006.


Edward M. Kriegsman
Reg. No. 33,529
Dated: July 21, 2006